

**watch out
for
LEAD PAINT
POISONING**



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Children get lead poisoning when they eat bits of paint that contain lead. If a child eats enough lead paint, his brain will be damaged. He may become mentally retarded or even die.

Older houses often have layers of lead paint on the walls, ceilings, and woodwork. When the paint chips off or when the plaster breaks, there is real danger for babies and young children. Outdoors, lead paints and primers may have been used in many places, such as walls, fences, porches, and fire escapes.

If you have seen your child putting pieces of paint or plaster in his mouth, you should take him to a doctor, clinic, or hospital as soon as you can. In the beginning stages of lead poisoning, a child may not seem really sick. Do not wait for signs of poisoning.

Of course, a child might eat paint chips or chew on a painted railing or window sill while parents

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aren't around. Has your child been especially cranky? Is he eating very little? Does he throw up or have stomach aches often? These could be signs of lead poisoning. Take him to a doctor's office or to a clinic.

Be sure to tell the rest of your family and people who babysit for you about the danger of lead poisoning.

Look at your walls and ceilings and woodwork. Are there places where the paint is peeling?

- Get a broom or stiff brush and remove all loose pieces of paint from walls, woodwork, and ceilings. Sweep up all the pieces of paint and plaster. Put them in a paper bag or wrap them in newspaper and put the package in the trash can.
- Always keep the floor clear of loose bits of paint and plaster.
- Children will pick loose paint off the walls, so be extra careful about keeping the lower parts of the walls free of loose paint.
- You can cover up at least the lower parts of walls by using wallpaper, or by tacking boards

over them, or by moving heavy furniture against them.

If you want to know more about how to keep your child safe from lead poisoning, talk to your doctor, public health nurse, or social worker at the clinic or health department.

This publication is also available in Spanish under the title "¡Cuidado! La Pintura de Plomo Envenena," DHEW Pub. No. (HSA) 75-5106

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